



Smoother, Safer, Sooner

Amendment 3



Update

Winter 2005

In November 2004, Missouri's voters chose to end the diversion of highway user fees to other state agencies and use these funds to build and maintain Missouri's roads and bridges. The new law requires these funds be used through the sale of bonds and repaid over time with the additional annual income.

Element 1

Smooth Roads Initiative (SRI)

- This initiative will result in 2,200 miles of a smoother drive with brighter striping and signs, improved shoulders with rumble strips and safer guardrails on Missouri's most-traveled highways.
- MoDOT teams inspected all SRI roads to determine the quality of road surfaces, signs, striping, guardrails and shoulders on sections that need improvement. Not all sections of the roads need help. About 25 percent of these roads are already in good condition.
- About \$360 million will fund 177 projects
- The 2,200 miles of the Smooth Roads Initiative account for 60 percent of all traffic on state highways. Interstates, major metropolitan highways and corridors between smaller towns were selected for improvement.
- Almost 86 percent of Missouri's population lives within 10 miles of one of the selected roads.
- All SRI projects are included on the 2005-2006 Bond Financing List to be submitted to the Legislature.

Element 2

Acceleration of Existing Project Commitments

- MoDOT identified projects in the current Statewide Transportation Improvement Program – our five-year plan – that are good candidates for acceleration. Two types of projects were considered.
 - Resurfacing and rehabilitation projects that are part of the 2,200 miles of the SRI.
 - Major projects that can begin earlier – as much as three years – than originally planned.
- To be considered for acceleration, the following steps must be complete or very close to final:
 - Right of way plans and acquisition,
 - Environmental clearances
 - Project designs, and
 - Other operational issues
- The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved earlier start dates for 55 projects – more than \$430 million worth.

Element 3

Selecting New High-Priority Projects

- According to MoDOT estimates, \$1.3 – \$1.5 billion will be available for projects in 2007-2010.
- MoDOT's Major Projects Prioritization Task Force, a group of 13 – including MoDOT district engineers, the director of operations, the director of project development and the transportation planning director – are working collaboratively with regional planning partners to identify projects that provide statewide transportation benefits.
 - The first of two task force meetings was held February 15, 2005. Members of the public and planning partners attended and observed the task force discussions.
 - The task force considered all projects that were submitted, developed a set of high-level screening criteria and began to pare down the list of possible major projects.
 - The product of the meeting was a first-layer, pared down, fiscally unconstrained major project list to be considered for funding.

Currently, MoDOT districts are discussing the projects on the unconstrained list – and the reasons some were omitted – with planning partners. MoDOT is also exploring various cost-saving possibilities in an effort to deliver more value for every dollar invested in transportation.

- The second meeting, to be held April 13, 2005, will result in an agreed-upon, fiscally constrained list of high-priority major projects. The list will be MoDOT's recommendation to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for the Draft 2006-2010 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. The public and planning partners are invited to attend and observe.

Geographically, Amendment 3 funding matches MoDOT's current funding distribution practices.

1-888 ASK MODOT (1.888.275.6636)

www.modot.org